

## Two SLA militiamen killed in attack

MARAYOUN (AP) — Hezbollah guerrillas Tuesday killed two Israeli-backed militiamen in a roadside bomb attack in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) said. The attack on a patrol occurred in the centre of Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the Israeli-Lebanese border as it travelled along a road to Barashet. The details were also confirmed by Israeli military officials. A Hezbollah spokesman contacted in Beirut by AP claimed the attack "on an enemy patrol of that was travelling along the road to Barashet" which "killed and wounded the occupants of an armoured vehicle." Israeli and SLA forces swing into action after the attack firing mortars at the area of Mayyin, a stronghold of Hezbollah in the west of the Bekaa Valley. An Israeli army spokesman also confirmed that fighter planes had fired on "terrorist bases" in southern Lebanon from which anti-Israeli attacks had been launched. He said the targets had been destroyed and the planes had returned safely to their bases in Israel.

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# Pelletreau briefs King on talks with regional leaders

By P.V. Vivekanand  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Senior U.S. State Department official Robert Pelletreau on Tuesday briefed His Majesty King Hussein on the outcome of talks he held with other Middle Eastern leaders, mainly King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, on the situation in the region in the wake of the defection of a senior Iraqi official to Jordan.

However, Jordan has reaffirmed that reconciliation with the Gulf states would not come at the expense of the strong relationship between Amman and Baghdad despite obvious American efforts to deepen the differences caused by the Jordanian decision to grant refuge to Gen. Hassan, who on Aug. 12 vowed to overthrow President Saddam.

Also expected to have been discussed by the King and Mr. Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, were American efforts to bring closer the views of Jordan and the Gulf.

Ties between Jordan and Gulf states were strained because of what the Gulf states perceived as Jordan's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

However, concerted efforts since then have improved the relations, and the reconciliation process was obviously

accelerated by Jordan's decision to grant asylum to Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's minister of industry and son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, who defected to the Kingdom on Aug. 8.

However, Jordan has reaffirmed that reconciliation with the Gulf states would not come at the expense of the strong relationship between Amman and Baghdad despite obvious American efforts to deepen the differences caused by the Jordanian decision to grant refuge to Gen. Hassan, who defected to the Kingdom on Aug. 8.

No elaboration was immediately available.

Reports from the Gulf said Mr. Pelletreau had discussed with King Fahd and Sheikh Jaber the possibility of their countries replacing Iraq as Jordan's oil supplier as part of an American effort to isolate Baghdad by severing trade and economic links between Jordan and its eastern neighbour.

However, Jordan's only lifeline to the outside world after the U.N. imposed crippling sanctions on the country following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, affirmed on Saturday that the Kingdom would not withdraw from Egypt on Friday.

He also visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for talks with King Fahd and Sheikh Jaber

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## Jordan welcomes Kuwaiti position

By Saad Silawi  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh on Tuesday welcomed a statement by the Kuwaiti foreign minister that Kuwait was ready to consider supplying oil to Jordan.

"Jordan has not made any request to any Arab countries to supply it with oil," the minister told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, "But we see the Kuwaiti statement as a positive move towards better bilateral relations."

Mr. Darwazeh was referring to comments by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah that the emirate,

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## U.S.: No sign of Iraqi invasion plans

By P.V. Vivekanand  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Senior U.N. arms inspector Rolf Ekeus on Tuesday met with Hussein Kamel Hassan, former head of Iraq's military industrialisation programme who defected to Jordan this month, but failed to extract any Iraqi secrets from the defector, according to a cousin.

Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat who heads the U.S. Special Commission on eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under U.N. terms, met with Lieutenant-General Hassan, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, at an undisclosed site for four hours and could meet him again, informed sources said.

Mr. Ekeus had delayed his departure from Jordan until Wednesday, said the sources. Major Izzeddine Hassan, a cousin of Gen. Hassan, who also defected on Aug. 8, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the U.N. official did not get any Iraqi military secrets in Tuesday's meeting.

The Pentagon said last week that it was sending ships with tanks and arms for as many as 22,000 marines and army troops closer to the Gulf region. It also moved more warships to the area and advanced a scheduled training exercise in Kuwait in response to what the Pentagon said was a five-week-old pattern of unusual troop movements.

Mr. Perry did not make clear whether the Iraqi movements at issue were continuing. "It is a matter that bears careful watching," he said.

"But all the secrets were revealed by the Iraqi government, which invited Mr. Ekeus to Baghdad to receive no secrets

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## Ekeus meets Hussein Kamel, but said to receive no secrets

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The main objective of the Ekeus mission to Jordan is to cross-check information he already received from the Iraqi government.

Gen. Hassan himself has been quoted as saying that he did not think he had any secrets to reveal to Mr. Ekeus after the Iraqi government itself provided all the details during a three-day visit to the U.N. official paid to Baghdad last week and early this

week.

The Iraqi regime has asked Ekeus to return to be given more information and that will not be now, but in a short while," Maj. Hassan told the AP.

Tight security surrounded Tuesday's talks. Mr. Ekeus was scheduled to meet Gen. Hassan on Monday, but the meeting was delayed overnight upon the former Iraqi minister's request.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said Tuesday the Jordanian government was not playing any role in the meeting.

Meanwhile a team of U.N. germ warfare experts arrived in Baghdad to check out the new information provided by the Iraqi government.

The source, however, confirmed that Mr. Ekeus had deferred his departure from Amman. A scheduled press conference failed to materialise on Tuesday, and expectations are that the U.N. official would meet journalists before he leaves Jordan on Wednesday.

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# Jordan is weighing its options vis-a-vis Iraq

Questions galore, but answers need time

By Nermene Murad  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

THE DILEMMA that has faced Jordan ever since the defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, namely on whether to start playing an active role in the effort to further isolate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, seems to have found an answer — for now. Jordan will not take active measures to topple the Iraqi regime but nor will it foreclose options in dealing with the fast-changing situation in Iraq and the region generally.

The reaction of the government, the Lower House of Parliament and the press in general has been that the detection should not be used to put further pressure

on the Iraqi regime," says Senator Jawad Anani, the former minister of information. "But there are other questions that have to be answered before we foreclose all other options open to us," the member of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) argues.

Such questions, as posed by Dr. Anani and other political figures, include whether Jordan should be involved in determining the future of Iraq, which is closely connected to that of Jordan, when there is a real opportunity to do so as the case must be now, and whether it might be too harmful and dangerous for Jordan's vital interests to shy away from playing a regional role when everybody else is vying for it.

The list of questions is indeed long, argue politi-

cians and analysts. In Dr. Anani's view, there are five specific questions which Jordanians who want to remain passive vis-a-vis the shifting sands in Iraq have to answer themselves.

Should we expect change in Iraq after the defection of Gen. Hassan? Should there be change in the regime in Baghdad, how would the new leaders react to continued neutrality by Jordan, assuming that it did nothing between now and when change happens? And if there is no change, and the sanctions are lifted, how would the present regime accept the fact that Jordan granted asylum to Gen. Hassan and also gave him access to call for the ouster of President Saddam and his government? If Jordan remains neutral and the U.N.

imposed sanctions continue to bite into the fabric of Iraqi society will not Jordan be risking not only the possibility of an Iraqi refugee problem at its borders as a result of the continued agony and hardship but also defeating its own policy objective of alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi?

There are of course more questions being posed by other politicians and analysts. Jordan, they point out, nearly lost its role as a regional player after taking a neutral position during the Gulf crisis and war. Should the Kingdom expect to regain that role by doing nothing? On the other hand, should not Jordan, which gave up another important card in regional politics by not speaking for the Palestinians before the

convening of the Madrid conference, make up for the loss if it will not take an active part in other regional theatres?

"Jordan not only paid a heavy political price for its decision to stay neutral in the Gulf war," another former minister says. "But its attempts to rebuild itself economically have not led to prosperity even after signing the peace treaty."

Those who are in favour of playing a direct role in the

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with Israel, he adds. "A decision by Jordan therefore to participate in international attempts to topple the Iraqi regime, parallel to already successful reconciliation efforts with the West to place itself prominently on the map of a new Middle East order and in the process improve its economic situation."

"If intelligence information made available to Jordan

can convince us that the Iraqi regime will not last longer than a few months, then Jordan has to move fast in order to ensure that its relationship with the new regime is at least as good as it was with Saddam's before the invasion of Kuwait," argues the former minister, who requested anonymity.

Those who are in favour of playing a direct role in the

cooperation and water sharing. "On at least three of these four counts there is a common Iraqi-Israeli interest in which Jordan can play an important role," says a former Jordanian parliamentarian in peace talks with Israel.

In fact some politicians and analysts interpret King Hussein's call on Iraq to join the peace process, which the King said he conveyed to Gen. Hassan when he met him three weeks before his defection, to mean that Jordan is aware that it can play an important political role in contributing to the new regional security arrangements that include Israel as well as a rehabilitated Iraq.

Jordan, according to them, is very important regionally on at least four counts: demography (Palestinian dimension), regional security arrangements, regional economic

cooperation and water sharing. "On at least three of these four counts there is a common Iraqi-Israeli interest in which Jordan can play an important role," says a former Jordanian parliamentarian in peace talks with Israel.

Behind all these regional considerations, analysts also point out, Jordan stands to curry favour with U.S. President Bill Clinton personally if it joins the U.S.-led campaign to topple President Saddam.

As Mr. Clinton prepares to enter the race for presidential elections next year, reports from Washington have already hinted that His Majesty's decision to grant asylum to the Iraqi defectors will strengthen the president's hand in establishing his forcefulness in foreign policy.

The New York Times

sydney experiences longest dry spell in 137 years

YIDNEY (AP) — Experts said Sydney experienced a 137-year-old dry spell on Monday when rain failed for the 35th consecutive day over the eastern Australian city. The Bureau of Meteorology said it was the longest without rain since 1869 to 1879. It was the second driest year in the last 100 years. The dry weather was caused by high pressure systems in the centre of the continent moving northwards towards the coast. Area spokesman for the state government of New South Wales, which Sydney is in, said it may affect stricken areas in the city. Residents are already using water from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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convening of the Madrid conference, make up for the loss if it will not take an active part in other regional theatres?

"Jordan not only paid a heavy political price for its decision to stay neutral in the Gulf war," another former minister says. "But its attempts to rebuild itself economically have not led to prosperity even after signing the peace treaty."

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## Turkish women to stress insult means injury in Beijing

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish experts will take to the U.N. Conference on Women a new project that says insult amounts to injury — a concept that is hard to establish when physically battered women here are just learning to complain.

Funded by the European Commission, the \$25,000 project shows to groups of women in low-income, squatter areas around the capital video-taped vignettes on physical and verbal violence.

At the end, over tea and cakes many of the women openly admit that they too had been beaten, sexually abused or verbally humiliated by a husband, brother or father.

"He never told me I was ugly, but he did shout at me in front of our friends," said a 55-year-old woman of her husband after a recent show in a home in the Altindag quarter.

She was commenting on one of the scenes showing a man "disgusted" with his wife's looks. In others, a husband insults his wife's cooking skills and her intelligence in public.

"But our men cannot change and we should not expect it," objected another woman.

"He is the bread-winner. If he wants warm soup, or quick service we should deliver," she said.

However, she and the rest bitterly responded during scenes of physical violence. They drew from their own experiences to imagine the rest of a vignette that tapered off just as a husband was about to hit his wife.

"Women were not aware that verbal abuse was really abuse," said Gulseren Washington, educational psychologist who together with the private Women's Solidarity Foundation is carrying out the project.

"Most believe oral abuse is their 'destiny' and they must accept it."

"We are trying to tell them not to wait until the point of physical abuse."

The four-year-old foundation takes in battered women, housing them and their children in a shelter for about three months

while helping them develop income-earning skills.

In June, the awareness-raising campaign was launched, introducing an emphasis on verbal abuse.

"Even though we can't take to verbal abuse victims, we counsel them on how to handle it," Ms. Washington said.

If it works, the project will travel to other parts of the country.

So far, unlike physically abused women, the few who sought help against verbal abuse came from educated, higher-income backgrounds, or were working women.

"I met an engineer whose husband, an architect, insulted her everyday, all the time," said Sevina Unal, a foundation member who also works at a government centre for battered women.

"She said she couldn't leave him because it would look bad in her circle, even though she had her own income and her own flat."

A 1990 census put the average literacy rate among women at 69 per cent, significantly lower than the men's 90 per cent. The difference gets sharper after high school, and in rural areas where there are five times more illiterate women than men.

Even physically battered women were reluctant to change their lives, lacking skills and being fully dependent on their husbands for their survival.

"Those who come to the foundation are women who have reached the limit of suffering, of hearing physical abuse," said Ms. Washington.

Rabin Zeno was sentenced to five years, Mohammad Abu Hamad and Anis Abu Jazar to three and a half years each.

Aged from 20 to 22 all three lived in the town of Rafah, close to the border with Egypt. They were arrested two weeks ago,

Mr. Arafat has vowed to



**FUNERAL:** An Israeli policeman mourns at the funeral Tuesday of chief superintendent Noam Eisenman, 35, who was killed in a bomb explosion in Jerusalem on Monday. Five people, including a possible suicide bomber, were killed in the blast (see page one) (AFP photo)

## PNA jails 3 'bombers'; Arafat talks tough

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Three men who allegedly planned a bomb attack on the Israeli army were jailed for several years overnight Monday by the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) state security court.

"The three were preparing to bomb an Israeli military patrol," Palestinian Attorney-General Khaled Al Kidra told AFP.

"They were undergoing training in explosives," he said.

Rabin Zeno was sentenced to five years, Mohammad Abu Hamad and Anis Abu Jazar to three and a half years each.

Aged from 20 to 22 all three lived in the town of Rafah, close to the border with Egypt. They were arrested two weeks ago,

police said. They were members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which opposes the PLO's autonomy agreements, but acted alone, Mr. Kidra said.

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Aged from 20 to 22 all three lived in the town of Rafah, close to the border with Egypt. They were arrested two weeks ago,

Mr. Arafat has vowed to cut off the bands of any Palestinian militants taking orders from abroad, after a suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem killed six and wounded 100.

"Each time we are getting near to an accord on prisoners or we find ourselves only two steps from Al Quds, something happens and I have proof that it is just the opposite," Mr. Arafat said.

He was addressing an audience commemorating the burning of the Al Aqsa mosque on Aug. 21, 1969.

"The higher interest (for the Palestinians) lies not in the orders dictated from abroad to carry out an operation and receive in return money," he said.

"I will cut off the band of anyone receiving orders from

abroad whether that be Iran or any other country.

"I am not the one stopping the tanks from arriving in Jerusalem or Nablus" in the occupied West Bank, he said, referring to countries opposed to the peace process such as Iran and who have urged force to retake the occupied territories.

He also said it made no difference whether Monday's suicide bomber was a man or a woman, saying "a Muslim doesn't attack innocent civilians."

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which is violently opposed to the PLO's autonomy accords with Israel, claimed Monday's attack on a packed bus in a Jewish quarter of Jerusalem in an anonymous call to Israel radio.

## U.S. denounces bomb attack in Jerusalem

WASHINGTON — In the wake of terrorist bombing in Jerusalem, the United States pledged to stand with the people of Israel in working toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The explosion, apparently triggered by a suicide bomber, ripped through two buses, killing at least five persons, including an American tourist, and injuring more than 100 others, many of them seriously.

Both President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher condemned the act of terrorism and expressed their condolences to the families of those who were killed or injured.

"The president, in the name of the American people, joins with the people of Israel in renewing our determination to work together in the cause of peace," White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry said in a written statement issued in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

"The secretary called Rabin to convey his condolences.

In his written statement, Mr. Christopher noted that the people of Israel "have chosen not to surrender to the forces of extremism and terror and to pursue peace."

He acknowledged the choice was not an easy one, but he said "it offers a real chance to achieve a peace with the kind of security that Israelis have been denied for so long."

Asked about right-wing demonstrations in a number of Israeli cities and towns which have demanded that the peace process be abandoned, the deputy spokesman replied: "I would not discount the anger of those who would like to derail this process and to incite more violence in the region."

Those who carried out this attack had one purpose: to kill Israelis and to destroy the peace process," Mr. Christopher said in a statement issued by deputy spokesman David Johnson.

"We must not allow these extremists to succeed," Mr. Christopher declared. "We will not submit to their terror

and intimidation; and we will not permit them to kill the chances for peace through negotiations."

While Israel suspended its ongoing negotiations with the Palestinian Authority in the wake of the terrorist bombing, Mr. Johnson told reporters that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured Christopher in a telephone conversation that "the Israeli government plans to move forward after a short suspension." The secretary called Rabin to convey his condolences.

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render to the forces of extremism and terror and to pursue peace. Today they demonstrate that courage again by recommitting themselves to pursue peace with their Palestinian neighbours. This choice is not an easy one. But it offers a real chance to achieve a peace with the kind of security that Israelis have been denied for so long. Fornified by the courage and determination already shown by those committed to peace, we will do everything we can to help the parties reach their goal of a lasting, comprehensive peace with security for all."

Following is the White House statement:

"President Clinton condemns the tragic act of terrorism that took place in Jerusalem this morning. The attack by a suicide-bomber against a public bus has taken the lives of several innocent civilians, and has wounded many, including two Americans."

"The president expressed his deep sadness at the loss of life and sends his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of today's bombing. The President, in the name of the American people, joins with the people of Israel in renewing our determination to work together in the cause of peace. These enemies of peace will not succeed. The United States stands with Israel and all those who work for peace and a safer future for the people of the region."

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"Those who carried out this attack had one purpose: to kill Israelis and to destroy the peace process. We must not allow these extremists to succeed; we will not submit to their terror and intimidation; and we will not permit them to kill the chances for peace through negotiations."

"Throughout its history, the people of Israel have expressed extraordinary courage in the face of terror. They have chosen not to

render to the forces of extremism and terror and to pursue peace. Today they demonstrate that courage again by recommitting themselves to pursue peace with their Palestinian neighbours. This choice is not an easy one. But it offers a real chance to achieve a peace with the kind of security that Israelis have been denied for so long. Fornified by the courage and determination already shown by those committed to peace, we will do everything we can to help the parties reach their goal of a lasting, comprehensive peace with security for all."

## Afghanistan, Iran set up narcotics control body

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan and Iran have agreed to set up a joint commission to examine ways of controlling the flow of narcotics through the region, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alauddin Brujerdi said on Monday.

He told a news conference after a two-day visit to the Afghan capital that the two governments had agreed the commission would meet as soon as possible.

"We want poppy-growing areas in Afghanistan to be converted to useful alternative crops and we want to crack down on the flow of narcotics across our border," he said.

"The Afghan government agreed to help us in this regard and they will send a delegation to Tehran soon."

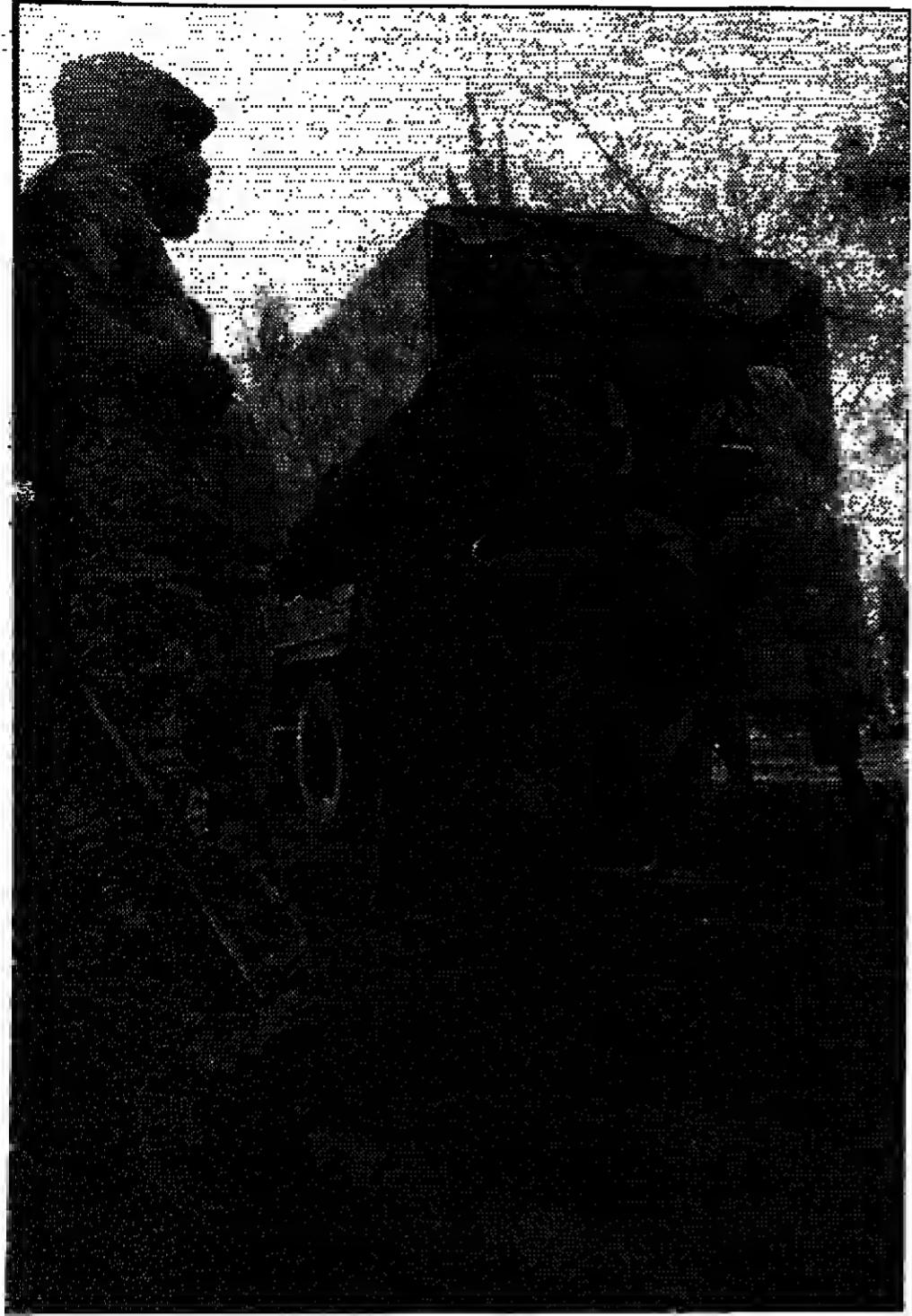
According to a United Nations Drug Control Programme survey, Afghanistan produces more opium than any other country in the world, much of it grown in remote tribal regions close to the Iranian border.

Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibullah Lefraie said the joint commission would examine a number of options for tackling the problem, but the two governments had not discussed concrete proposals.

Besides his talks with Mr. Lefraie, Mr. Brujerdi also met embattled Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his main military commander, Ahmad Shah Massoud.

But in a remark suggesting that Kabul had put the issue behind him, Mr. Lefraie said he believed the Iranian government was pursuing "a realistic policy towards Afghanistan" and that relations between the two sides were warm.





Rwandan refugees being expelled from refugee camps around the Goma area get into trucks that will take them to the border under the watchful eye of a Zairian soldier Tuesday (Reuters photo)

## Sao Tome coup leaders relinquish power

SAO TOME (AFP) — Soldiers who ousted Sao Tome and Principe's first democratically elected president a week ago relinquished power Tuesday under an amnesty deal after failing to win support at home or abroad.

Vencio De Moura, the Angolan foreign minister who helped negotiate an end to the crisis, went on national radio to announce that civilian rule had been restored in this impoverished West African state, a set of small islands which lie off the coast of Gabon.

The coup leaders agreed to hand back power to President Miguel Trovada, who was elected in 1991 and ousted exactly one week ago.

"Thanks to understanding, good sense and a spirit of patriotism shown by all sides, it has been possible to normalize political life in Sao Tome," Mr. De Moura said.

Mr. De Moura said a memorandum had been signed between the coup leaders and the civilian authorities calling for a series of measures including a restructuring of the military, but with Mr. Trovada remaining as commander in chief.

The agreement brokered by Mr. De Moura was signed by coup leader Lieutenant Quitas De Almeida and by the speaker of the national assembly, Francisco Fortunato Pires.

The accord came only a few hours after the national assembly unanimously voted to amnesty those involved in the coup, thus meeting the main condition set by the soldiers before they would relinquish power.

Mr. Trovada was arrested and overthrown at dawn on August 15 in a bloodless coup organised by a group of officers who said they wanted to "restore order" to the island republic which won independence from Portugal in 1975.

But the coup failed to generate support here or abroad, with numerous countries condemning the putsch and suspending aid desperately needed in a destitute nation where, for example, teachers earn \$10 a month.

In early reaction, France welcomed the coup leaders' decision to restore civilian rule.

A Sao Tomean officer interviewed on Portuguese TSF radio said the coup participants would not be prosecuted.

"We signed a document saying there will be neither persecution, trials nor disciplinary action against us," said sub-Lieutenant Marcal Lima.

He said the mutineers had also obtained satisfaction in a dispute over the make-up of the presidential guard. "The personal guard will continue to be trained by officers from Sao Tome and Principe and not by foreign soldiers as the president wanted," Lt. Lima said.

Mr. Trovada was expected to return to the presidential palace on Tuesday. After being held at army headquarters he was moved to an official government residence on Friday after the opening of the negotiations.

In his statement, the Angolan mediator thanked France, Portugal, the European Union, the United Nations and Gabon for their "support" during the talks.

## Last bodies removed from worst Indian rail crash as death toll reaches 350

NEW DELHI (R) — Rescue workers were extracting the last bodies on Tuesday from India's worst ever rail crash, which claimed some 350 lives and has raised questions about the frequency of such accidents.

Spraying chemicals to disinfect rotting flesh in the monsoon humidity, rescuers used blow torches to cut through the twisted metal of the final coaches where bodies still lay mangled from the high-speed collision early Sunday morning.

Heavy-duty cranes lifted debris of the Kalindi express, struck from behind after it hit a cow and was forced to halt.

The next train, the Purushottam express, ploughed into it at 100

kilometres an hour.

Press reports agreed some 350 people had died in the crash, with many more lying critically injured in hospitals around the scene at Firozabad, 200 kilometres from the capital. Unofficial estimates suggested the eventual toll could be as high as 600.

Railway officials said it might take the rest of Tuesday to remove the last of the bodies.

Army rescue workers sifted through the twisted steel along the railway embankment, collecting severed limbs, piling them on stretchers with other human remains and bearing them away.

Mounds of corpses were piled up outside the hospital in Firozabad, as officials wearing linen masks against

the stench tried to arrange the bodies for identification.

The hospital backyard was converted into a makeshift open-air morgue where rows of corpses, many badly disfigured, lay under strips of cloth on the muddy earth.

Groups of weeping relatives wandered among the bodies.

"The shocking train accident... has come in the wake of several other accidents suggesting that there is something grievously wrong with the railway system in India," the Indian Express newspaper commented on Tuesday.

It was the third major train accident this year and there have been more than 30 serious crashes in the past decade.

"There is little to indicate that the government sees the

decade's worst train accident as anything more than an embarrassment," the Pioneer newspaper said.

"It is this aspect of the entire episode that is most worrying in so far as it leaves little room for hope that corrective action to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies... will be taken."

Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao blamed the crash on human error and told parliament that heads would roll if he were given wrong information by the railway ministry.

Mr. Rao faced demands for his resignation during an angry six-hour debate on the crash in parliament on Monday.

Mr. Rao, who took charge of the railway portfolio last week when the minister went to London for medical

treatment, ordered an inquiry into the accident.

Senior railway officials said a signalman had given the Purushottam express the green light without checking whether the other train had left his sector, and the Kalindi express guard failed to switch on a flashing light to indicate his train had stopped after hitting the cow.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Northern Railways General Manager V.K. Aggarwal as saying the signalman who gave the green light to the express had fled.

India's previous worst train accident was in 1981 when 270 people were killed after a train plunged into the Bhagmati river in the northern state of Bihar.

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Enraged Indian opposition MPs boycotted parliament here Tuesday over a government proposal to rename New Delhi's main commercial district after slain Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv Gandhi.

Lawmakers accused Home Minister Shankaracharya in the upper house of parliament of "tinkering" with history, before staging a walkout over a proposal to rename Connaught Place, a circular shopping centre lined by colonnades.

"This is a disservice to yourself, history and to those who you think you are doing a service to," said Inder Kumar Gujral, a former foreign minister and leader of the Janata Dal (People's Party).

V.K. Malhotra of the main

opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party, BJP) said there were innumerable public places named after the Gandhis, India's first political family, who were leaders of the Congress (I) Party.

New Delhi's international airport is named after Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in October 1984.

Connaught Place was named after the Duke of Connaught who came to India to attend the Delhi Durbar in 1911, when the seat of the British raj was transferred from the eastern port city of Calcutta.

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1991 by a suicide bomber, while campaigning for elections which could have again made him prime minister

## Zaire expels thousands of Rwanda refugees; 60,000 flee

GOMA, Zaire (R) — Zairean troops expelled thousands of Rwandan refugees Tuesday, forcing 60,000 others to flee their camps amid reports of looting, beatings and rapes.

At Mugunga Camp near the Zairean town of Goma, soldiers resumed deportations by rounding up refugees at random at gunpoint, forcing them onto buses and trucks and dumping them on the border with Rwanda.

Roadsides swarmed with men, women and children preparing to leave and U.N. Officials at the scene said the situation was increasingly tense after troops robbed and beat up refugees.

People started throwing stones at a young Zairean man they accused of trying to loot. "Thief, thief," they shouted. But the soldiers were ebullient, clearly pleased to see the refugees go.

In Bukavu town south of Goma, deportations were stepped up Tuesday, the third day of expulsions, with 2,900 taken to the border and 8,000 en route to a crossing to Cyangugu, Rwanda.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Spokesman Peter Kessler said up to 60,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees fled without food from Lubanzi, Rusingo and Kagogo camps near the town of Uvira into mountains and nearby villages.

Zaire expelled 1,981 Rwandan Hutu refugees

because there is no safe water in the mountains and they will soon begin to get sick. Apparently some refugees have fled from other camps in the area to escape the Zairean operation but we don't have exact numbers," he said.

A total of 6,700 refugees were expelled by Zairean troops on Monday in an operation Zairean authorities said would continue until the United Nations took responsibility for the return of the estimated one million Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire.

U.N. officials said 3,400 were forced out on Tuesday morning and thousands more were on their way from camps around Goma, Bukavu and Uvira forced back to both Rwanda and Burundi.

More than 200 refugees were forced out by Zairean troops Tuesday and aid workers left the camp, sealed off since Monday.

The Zaireans seem to be more brutal this time. They've already started looting and beating people," said an official.

Seven refugees with injuries were transferred from Mugunga Camp Hospital to Goma. Sporadic gunfire was heard in the camp overnight and aid workers reported gunshot wounds to several refugees.

Zaire expelled 1,981 Rwandan Hutu refugees

from Mugunga Monday — nearly half of them children apparently because they are the easiest for soldiers to scoop up and put on buses and trucks.

Mugunga, until Saturday home to 150,000 refugees, looked dishevelled Tuesday after refugees removed plastic sheeting from their huts and hurriedly packed the few belongings they could carry.

Some refugees were crammed onto a nearby hilltop in a bid to escape deportation and a trail of refugees moved up the hill.

U.N. officials warned of potential violence as many refugees and former Rwandan government troops in the camps refuse to return home because of fears of reprisals for last year's genocide in Rwanda of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

State-run Goma radio appealed Monday for businessmen to provide extra trucks and buses to speed up the expulsions.

Mr. Kessler said

An old woman holds a cross Tuesday as she sits waiting to be processed by officials after having been expelled from a Rwandan refugee camp on Goma (Reuters photo)

UNHCR had received unconfirmed reports of rapes by Zairean troops of Rwandan refugee women in the camp.

"He said of the more than 200 expelled Saturday only one man had been imprisoned by Rwandan authorities accused of involvement in the genocide but others were jailed for criminal activities.

The expulsions violate international law and the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan government, which took power after a rebel victory last July, has appealed for international help to deal with the influx.

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An activist of the pro-communist Working Russia political movement stands with a red Soviet flag, portrait of the dictator Josef Stalin and a poster during a demonstration in Moscow Tuesday (Reuters photo)

## Chernomyrdin bloc suffers blow in regional poll

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's 'Our Home is Russia' political bloc appeared shaken Tuesday as the final results of a regional poll confirmed the crushing defeat of one of its leading lights.

Edmund Rossel was elected governor of Sverdlovsk region in the Urals, capturing almost twice as many votes as incumbent Alexei Strakhov, head of the local branch of Our Home is Russia, the central electoral commission said.

Mr. Strakhov won only 32.07 per cent of Sunday's vote against 59.9 per cent for Mr. Rossel, a former secessionist known as 'the Father of the Urals Republic.'

Many Russian political commentators described the result as a major setback for Our Home is Russia, ahead of Dec. 17 parliamentary elections, although Mr. Chernomyrdin said the vote in the Urals should not be viewed as a dress rehearsal.

'I would rather not link these two factors,' Mr. Chernomyrdin told reporters during a visit to Siberia's Altai region.

'It turned out that his

(Rossel's) election programme better met the voters' interests. We should take this factor into account in our canvassing campaign,' ITAR-TASS news agency quoted him as saying.

Mikhail Leontyev of the Sverdlovsk newspaper said Mr. Strakhov lost the hard-fought election despite having the Sverdlovsk regional administration and central authorities behind him.

'One can only conclude that the potential of the 'Party of Power' as demonstrated today does not guarantee either political or material results for the people they put forward,' he wrote.

The authoritative Izvestia daily passed a similar verdict, saying the 'Party of Power' — as Our Home is Russia is often called — had suffered its first defeat.

The first electoral pancake, which Our Home is Russia baked last Sunday, has turned out to be lumpy, wrote the business newspaper *Kommersant-daily*.

Most commentators regard Mr. Rossel's victory as also a blow to president Boris Yeltsin, who sacked the ethnic German in 1993 after he tried to set up a

'We cannot stop the process and we will not stop it.... Those responsible for organising provocations in Chechnya will pay a heavy price,' he was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Between 200 and 400 Chechen independence fighters led by a local warlord had occupied the police headquarters and other buildings Sunday, calling on Russian forces in Chechnya to withdraw.

Alawdi Khamzatov, the warlord who led the Argun siege, claimed he was named military commander of the town 15 kilometres east of the capital Grozny, however, it showed again that, despite talk of peace, force is still an easy option.

As the special forces withdrew from the town after the worst fighting in the republic since a ceasefire in June, Mr. Chernomyrdin said during a visit to Siberia that peace talks with Chechen rebels would continue.

'We cannot stop the process and we will not stop it.... Those responsible for organising provocations in Chechnya will pay a heavy price,' he was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Between 200 and 400 Chechen independence fighters led by a local warlord had occupied the police headquarters and other buildings Sunday, calling on Russian forces in Chechnya to withdraw.

Aslan Maskhadov, who signed the accord after

weeks of negotiations, controls only around 60 per cent of the rebels, according to a military and air attack, but the building was empty, the Chechens having escaped.

Coupled with a Russian air attack last week quelling a nascent uprising in Achkho-Martan 60 kilometres west of the capital Grozny, however, it showed again that, despite talk of peace, force is still an easy option.

Alawdi Khamzatov, the warlord who led the Argun siege, claimed he was named military commander of the town 15 kilometres east of the capital Grozny to meet both sides.

It came after a meeting Tuesday of the commission monitoring the military accords was cancelled. Witnesses said the Chechens arrived 15 minutes late but the Russians had walked out by then.

The accord also formalised a ceasefire agreed on June 20 and an exchange of prisoners.

Mr. Maskhadov branded the incident in Argun as 'provocation,' but did not rule out the possibility of Russian secret service involvement. In a communiqué in Grozny, he said

## France urges Australia, NZ restraint over N-tests

PARIS (Agencies) — France cautioned Australia and New Zealand Tuesday to keep their condemnation of planned French nuclear testing in the South Pacific to the level of verbal criticism of China for its recent

tests.

Paris reckons the two countries have already been unfairly critical of its planned seven or eight tests, from September to May in French Polynesia, and fears that the row could degenerate into a sanctions war.

'French authorities have let Canberra and Wellington know that they would understand if Australian and New Zealand reactions to French tests were stronger than those registered against recent nuclear tests,' the foreign ministry said.

Canberra and Wellington called in the Chinese envoys to the two countries after Beijing's second test in three months last Thursday. Australia lodged 'a stern rebuke' while New Zealand said it was 'most aggrieved'. Both stopped at verbal protests.

France hopes 'for rejections of at least comparable restraint regarding the forthcoming French tests', the two-sentence French ministry statement said. It did not mention China by name.

Earlier Tuesday, Aus-

tralian Prime Minister Paul Keating blasted France and China for showing 'disregard' for worldwide protests in carrying out nuclear tests despite an international moratorium in place since 1992.

Speaking in his capacity as acting head of the South Pacific Forum, Mr. Keating said the 15-member body was considering demanding a U.N. resolution aimed at putting 'pressure' on Paris and Beijing over the issue.

He specifically condemned China's latest test carried out last week. 'China has once again shown disregard for international opposition to nuclear testing,' he said in a statement issued by the Australian embassy here.

China and other nuclear weapons states must come to terms with the imminent ban on nuclear testing for all time.

'Forum countries, along with others, are considering a suitable resolution to be put before the U.N. general assembly to pressure China and France to reconsider their testing programmes,' he added.

French President Jacques Chirac has sparked worldwide condemnation with his decision to order eight nuclear tests to be carried out on the Mururoa Atoll in

September.

Greenpeace spokesman John Walters said the 40-foot (12-metre) sail boat and its five crew members will sail in waters off the Atoll for a flotilla of at least another 16 vessels to arrive to protest against the test series.

Mr. Walters said the Vega, which has made several protest voyages to the Atoll in past years, arrived early amid speculation that France might start the tests ahead of

the South Pacific from next month.

China was the only one of the five nuclear powers — the others are Britain, France, Russia and the United States — to ignore a self-imposed moratorium in place since 1992.

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the South Pacific from next month.

It joins a Danish fiber-glass-and-steel replica of a Viking ship, the Bifrost, which has been sailing the area around Mururoa since early July.

France has attracted widespread international criticism for its plan to conduct seven or eight underground nuclear tests starting after Sept. 1 through next May.

Greenpeace fears the blasts could harm the region's fragile ocean environment. They are also worried that radiation trapped from a long series of previous blasts could eventually seep into the sea.

France maintains there's no danger. It argues that the tests are necessary for the maintenance of its nuclear arsenal, and has promised the test series will be its last.

Despite this, countries such as Australia fear the test plan could jeopardize negotiations for an international Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

In Bonn Tuesday, members of Greenpeace held a demonstration outside Chancellor Helmut Kohl's office urging him to oppose French President Jacques Chirac's resumption of nuclear tests.

About 15 members of the environment protection campaign body parked a

truck outside the office bearing a loudspeaker system over which they played a version of the traditional French song 'Frere Jacques'.

'Helmut Kohl, are you still asleep? Stop the experiments, no more tests,' this version of the song went.

The Greenpeace demonstrators maintained that the planned tests would be contrary to European law.

The protesters face prosecution as demonstrations are banned within the precincts of the Bonn government buildings, a police spokesman said.

Protesters launch boycott of French wine

In London, British opponents of France's plan to resume nuclear testing Tuesday launched a boycott of French wine aiming to hit MR. Chirac 'where it really hurts.'

Central to the boycott is a 30-second advertising spot featuring a sniper with a scoped rifle taking aim at a customer at an outdoor cafe, shattering, in slow-motion, his glass of wine, which leaves the man awash in blood-like red.

'Drop a bomb on Chirac's plan,' says the voice-over.

'Hit him where it really hurts. Say 'Non.' Stop buying French wine.'

## Chile leader to curb armed forces' political power

SANTIAGO (R) — Chilean President Eduardo Frei proposed changes to the military-dictated 1980 constitution on Monday to weaken the political influence of the country's powerful armed forces.

The move followed a series of bruising confrontations between the government and military over human rights cases that have exposed the limits of Mr. Frei's control over the armed forces.

'Recent events have made it more evident than ever that some institutions are far from working appropriately and presidential authority is restricted,' Mr. Frei said in a televised speech.

Elected in 1993, Mr. Frei nominally controls the military as commander-in-chief, but the real power is held by army chief and former dictator General Augusto Pinochet, whom Mr. Frei is barred by law from firing.

All measures will require congressional approval, which could prove an uphill battle as the military senators and the right-wing opposition hold the balance of power in the senate.

The main change will be the abolition of eight military-appointed seats in the Chilean senate when their current terms end in 1997, Mr. Frei said.

Mr. Frei also proposed legal changes to give the president the power to remove senior officers.

Interior Minister Nasrullah Babaar said police and paramilitary rangers have been ordered into several neighbourhoods of Karachi in an attempt to flush out militants of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), a powerful ethnic and linguistic group.

Mohajirs claim they have

## Security force searching Karachi for ethnic militants

KARACHI (AP) — About 4,000 paramilitary rangers swept through Karachi's turbulent central district Tuesday searching for ethnic militants, who have terrorised this port city in recent months, authorities said.

The security force, cordoned off dozens of blocks in the lower-class lines area neighbourhood refusing to allow residents to leave or visitors to enter, eyewitnesses said.

Residents, contacted on telephone by the Associated Press, said the paramilitary rangers force was harassing people, rounding up at least one male member of every family and putting them on buses destined for a nearby army barracks.

They said most of the men returned home several hours later, but some reportedly were still missing and believed to have been arrested.

Interior Minister Nasrullah Babaar said police and paramilitary rangers have been ordered into several neighbourhoods of Karachi in an attempt to flush out militants of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), a powerful ethnic and linguistic group.

Mohajirs claim they have

been discriminated against since coming to Pakistan from India after the Asian subcontinent gained its independence from Britain in 1947.

In recent months the

largest faction of the MQM, led by 39-year-old Altaf Hussain, has been locked in a ferocious battle with Karachi security force and rival factions.

The violence, that has virtually crippled Pakistan's

largest city of 12 million people, has claimed nearly 800 lives in the last three months.

Gun battles have paralysed entire neighbourhoods, dozens of alleged police informants have been tortured and killed and nearly 100 police and rangers have been gunned down.

On Monday two police officers were killed and several other officers were wounded in a drive-by shooting in an eastern suburb of Karachi.

By midday Tuesday four

people had been killed in

separate shooting incidents in Karachi.

Police and rangers denied

the allegations.

A spokesman for the rangers, who refused to be identified, said people were being freed after they proved their identity.

## Judge sees no firm evidence against Gonzalez

MADRID (R) — The judge investigating Spain's 'dirty war' against Basque separatists has found no proof Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is criminally responsible but believes statements linking him to it are 'credible'.

The newspaper *El País* Tuesday published High Court Judge Baltasar Garzon's exposition of the evidence, made as he decided whether there was a case for the premier and three other politicians to answer in Spain's Supreme Court.

Mr. Garzon decided to refer the case to the Supreme Court July 28 and the court has since ruled itself competent to handle the case. The publication of his exposition gave Spaniards their first idea of the strength of the evidence.

The case turns on how much Mr. Gonzalez knew about the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL) which killed 27 people and kidnapped others between 1983-87.

## Sri Lanka troops kill 15 Tiger rebels, news agency reports

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops have killed between 15 and 20 Tamil civilians and wounded 19, a claim denied by the military.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarah Munasinghe told Reuters there was 'limited artillery fire' during a confrontation at Chankannai, near the sprawling Palaly airbase. He did not mention the armaments factory.

'There was no shelling as such,' he said in reference to the Tigers' claims. 'There was limited artillery fire which we use when there is a confrontation with the terrain.'

He said 'heavy casualties' were inflicted on the Tigers and confirmed that three bodies had been found and at least 17 had been wounded. The LTTE are known for taking away the bodies of their dead comrades.

Chankannai lies within the 78 square kilometres captured by the military during Operation Leap Forward last month and which is now 'dominated' by the armed

forces, Mr. Munasinghe said.

He also downplayed the radio reports of casualties.

'They didn't talk of their own (LTTE) casualties, their dead,' he said.

The radio said there was shelling from Palaly, Matagal and the naval base of Karainagar on Karaitivu, just off the west coast of Jaffna.

It also said troops had moved out from Pandaripettu south towards Sitankerni but had been forced to return.

The radio warned refugees to stay put as protracted negotiations between the government, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the government agent for Jaffna continued in Colombo over when and how food and supply ships can resume service to the north.

The relief



abour relations in Jordan, like everything else, for that matter, have a style of their own. The foreign investors who contemplate setting up in this country are well advised to learn, apply them if he wants his enterprise to prosper.

The first rule concerns recruitment. Foreigners have a silly approach to it: they draw organisations with lines all over, place, squares, illustrations, and the like, required for a position. This is an unscrupulous waste of time and money. We dispense with it and go directly to substance. We identify principal client for the foreigner whose good we need for the success conclusion of a deal. We employ someone trustworthy. This practice is of advantage of sparing us the effort of screening candidates. You need only one person to cover under any pretext, and it comes out of ten. We will still have a jobless relationship and attach him to our personnel.

So, now that you are a staff member, you wonder what to do: him. After a short time, Jordan will you will discover such contemplation waste of mental effort. Whichever job title responsibilities you are given, your Jordanian employer will be result is one: You are Jordanian: this knowledge is so strong; your staff will devote their entire careers to improving the other columns in the dailies; debating the finer points of world politics. This reader will pardon my digression, explain: our Arabic dailies are as big on working days as on weekends. It comes the day when need the return favour of your staffer's reclusive high office, when you invite both for a man's course of this sumptuous meal the person of consequence will digest the points of your proposal, acknowledge the advocacy of granting you the tract. Once this is achieved, you can proceed to employ as many factors as you need to do work involved. Should whom take you to fulfil part of the agreement?

By now you will be wondering if the extra cost will not raise the cost of project to uneconomic proportions. This is when Jordan's system of labour relations saves the day: in Jordan are not expected to live off their wages; consequently, you can't fire staff (the ones that work) that brings a justness for more salaries that cannot be seen through a week, and ensure never to pay the bill. Consequently, employees will live in the expectation of benefits owed to them, while this situation they are not likely to incur employment consequence. They will start doing jobs on the side, using office equipment, which will be your mostification for not paying them an adequate salary in the first place. It will be straightforward to know why we don't employ people qualified to the job required, because that they do it, and they are doing it. That's when the weight around with regard for the first

## Features

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1995 7

### Apocalypse now — or never? French wonder what nuke tests will do

By William J. Kole  
The Associated Press

PARIS — In nightmarish detail, Pierre Vincent describes the cataclysmic chain reaction he thinks France could trigger by setting off a nuclear test blast under an island in the South Pacific.

In his doomsday scenario, the shock wave topples a brittle undersea volcano. That triggers a tidal wave that tears open the sea floor and unleashes vast amounts of radioactivity, forever spoiling a tropical paradise. C'est impossible, scoffs Yves Galland. He's convinced that detonating atomic weapons a half-mile below the surface of coral-encrusted Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia will release no more radiation than what's already in the Paris subway.

That gulf between Mr. Vincent, a respected geologist, and Mr. Galland, a cabinet minister, underscores the debate now polarising the French. Just what will happen when France sets off the first of eight planned blasts next month on Mururoa, southeast of Hawaii? Apocalypse now? Or never?

Paris these days is a nuclear cafe buzzing with divisive test talk. Reports contradict each other, experts oppose experts, the newspaper L'est Républicain grumbled in an editorial this week. "One says white: No health hazard. The other says black: Watch out for radioactive leaks."

France says seven or eight blasts are needed to develop computer simulations that will make further testing unnecessary, and has promised to sign a global test ban treaty next year.



Sacked French Archbishop and social activist Jacques Gaillot (left) and leader of Tahiti's opposition Tavini Huirauatira party hold each other in front of Greenpeace's

Clermont-Ferrand in Southern France, contends all that nuclear pounding has fractured the atoll and conditions are ripe for disaster. He fears that renewed testing could collapse part of Mururoa's long-extinct undersea volcano and expose radiation meant to stay in the bowels of the Earth.

"It could lead to very strong radioactive pollution," he said. Not a chance, contend

others in the scientific community.

"Done correctly, the environmental effects are negligible," said Chuck McWilliam, operations director for the U.S. Department of Energy's Nevada nuclear test site, who has monitored Russia's underground test programme.

"When the device goes off it melts the Earth around it and forms a pool that solidifies like glass, and 99.99 per cent of the con-

taminants stay there," he said. "It may pull fissures in the floor of the sea, but it's not going to release anything measurable."

Scientists in Australia and New Zealand — where test opposition has been fiercest — said much the same thing in a report this week that concluded any health risks "likely would be small."

Even so, there is anecdotal evidence suggesting numerous birth defects and

certain cancers among islanders living near the test site. Hans Veenek, of the charity Doctors Without Borders, writes in issue of the British Medical Journal that children are being born without an anus.

Many scientists agree that France's insistence on a final round of tests has jeopardised efforts to get the nuclear powers to sign a test ban treaty by the end of 1996. France itself admits that some of the tests are to

try out a new warhead. That may be the biggest reason for Mr. Chirac to reconsider, says the international society of doctors for the environment, a group representing physicians and scientists from France and 64 other countries.

New tests "are incompatible with a new world order where people are fighting to assure conditions for a lasting and peaceful life on the Earth," it said.

### Pelletreau briefs King

(Continued from page 1)

undermine its economic interests with its one-time largest export market.

The King has rejected reports that the U.S. was pressuring Jordan to sever its links with Iraq and said Washington had not requested America to do anything in this regard.

President Clinton has

pledged that the U.S. would defend Jordan against any Iraqi military threat.

Baghdad has rejected a hand

Washington's suggestion that Iraq posed a threat to Jordan as a result of the granting of asylum to Gen. Hassan and described it as an American "hallucination."

Iraq's government-guided media have scoffed at what Baghdad sees as U.S. attempts to undermine Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

"U.S. efforts to sabotage our relations with Jordan are sterile and ridiculous and nobody can believe that Iraq has massed troops on the border with Jordan," said the Al Thawra newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Socialist Baathist Party.

The U.S. has spoken only of a perceived Iraqi threat to Jordan and did not make any reference to any troop movement near the border with the Kingdom.

"Iraq is always keen to develop its relations with Jordan because it is conscious that Washington wants to sow discord and sabotage

### Jordan weighing its options

(Continued from page 1)

said in an article published last week that by allowing Washington to provide protection to Jordan in case it needed it, "the Jordanian Monarch handed Clinton a free chance to show, once more, how tough the American president can be on Iraq."

Scepticism remains among those Jordanians who defend the policy of non-interference and who cite a long list of reasons why Jordan should do nothing at the present, arguing that maintaining the status quo would better serve the Kingdom's real interests.

Proponents of continued neutrality argue that Jordan cannot lose if it remains steadfast in its policy of non-interference, a policy that they say has been accepted by friends and foes alike in the wake of the Gulf war.

In fact, they believe that Jordan cannot do more than maintain its current balanced role vis-a-vis Iraq, citing a number of reasons, not least of which are the economic benefits of being the only gateway to Iraq and the preferential treatment Iraq provides to Jordan in oil supplies.

According to published statistics, Jordan receives oil worth \$500 million annually from Iraq and it pays for only half of its barter agreements for Jordanian medicine and food.

Iraq also owes Jordan \$1.1 billion in debts and accounts for about 20 per cent of all Jordanian exports.

The proposed alternative of depending on Washington's promises for assistance or on Saudi Arabia for retraining aid to its pre-Gulf levels, these analysts say, cannot be a viable option since even if their leaders wished to assist Jordan the Gulf countries may not be able to deliver on their promises.

Sheikh Sabah also said no request for Kuwaiti oil for Jordan had been made at the talks and noted Jordan was still being supplied with Iraqi oil.

"His highness the emir said the door is open and is not closed," the minister said, "Everyone's goal is

### Ekeus meets Iraqi defector

(Continued from page 1)

by the U.N. followed the war that evicted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

The Iraqi leadership has agreed to cooperate completely with the U.N. Special Commission and provide all missing information about the country's weapons programmes, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baathist Party reached the decision on Monday during a meeting chaired by President Saddam, the news agency said.

In a related development, a senior Iraqi official was quoted as placing the blame for the missing information on Gen. Hassan, the defector.

Gen. Amer Rasheed, who succeeded Gen. Hassan as head of the Iraqi Military Industrialisation Organisation after the defector, told Jordanian journalists visiting Iraq that Gen. Hassan had hidden files containing the information in his farm.

According to Gen. Rasheed, who was one of the key figures in contacts between Iraq and the U.N.

"We do not fear an outright attack by Iraq because it does not have the military power to stage such an attack at this time, but destabilisation attempts could be just as harmful to the stability of Jordan," the analyst says.

Rejection by public opinion and parliament of any Jordanian role in interfering with the system of government in Iraq has already put pressure on the government, which was quick to send out statements stressing that Jordan would not interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.

Analysts believe that statements made by King Hussein and the government on the same day earlier this week indicate that Amman will, for now, maintain the status quo in relations with Iraq.

In answering questions by reporters following a Cabinet meeting Saturday, part of which he chaired, the King did not repeat his call for change in Iraq, but he nevertheless strongly indicated that his concern was for the Iraqi people and not for the regime.

The government for its part, maintained in its brief statement that while it cared for Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty, it viewed Jordan's vital and strategic interests as the top priority in any consideration for future moves.

### Women-only train bound for Beijing?

By Alister Doyle

Reuter

PARIS — Somewhere in Siberia next week, about 150 women will be debating feminism in a special train running along a marathon route from Paris to a world conference on women in Beijing.

Despite nightmares with red tape for the 10,000 km (6,220 miles) trip and some disappointments, the women have set up an ambitious programme for the journey and have even won assurances that the drivers for the six-day stretch from Moscow to Beijing will not be men.

According to the general, the defector had given "strict instructions" to concerned Iraqi officials not to give Mr. Ekeus any "detailed information" on Iraq's nuclear and biological warfare programmes "to prolong the sanctions on Iraq."

Gen. Hassan has said that he was not in a position to "hide or reveal" anything to the U.N. Special Commission simply because he was not in charge of dealing with the panel. All dealings with the commission were directly guided by President Saddam Hussein himself, according to Gen. Hassan.

10,600 francs (\$2,120), including all train, travel, food, hotels in Beijing and a return flight to Europe on Aeroflot.

The trip will start symbolically in Paris on Friday (August 18) when about 50 women leave by regular train to Berlin. There they will join other women on a women-only train via Warsaw to Moscow, where they will again switch trains for Beijing.

The train will host two parallel workshops — one on the "participation of women in the great debates of society" and the other on "women, the media and multi-media."

The trans-Siberian leg from Aug. 23 to Aug. 29, will have only 15-minute stops, twice a day, in cities including Perm, Omsk and Ulan Bator in Mongolia.

Experts will give instruction on using computers and the internet, but the organisers have given up hope of getting live links by satellite to the internet for lack of money.

Another disappointment is that the Chinese government has shifted the NGO forum to the farming town of Haujiou, an hour's drive north of Beijing, rather than in the capital itself.

The NGO forum adopts positions to lobby the U.N.

"This will reduce the impact of the forum," Salvado Ferrer said. "It also brings home the point that this is not a luxury tourist trip, it'll need a lot of enthusiasm."

Another group, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, left on a train from Helsinki earlier this month for a trip through eight countries as far south as Turkey to Beijing.

Salvado Ferrer, who studied in China and the United States and now is trying to develop a career as a sculptor, said the total cost of the Paris-Beijing trip was about two million francs (\$400,000).

The French government has given 100,000 francs (\$20,000) as the biggest single donation.

Ticket sales and some corporate sponsorship meant that about 20 women would be getting free scholarships to go on the train.

Salvado Ferrer said the idea was to help women who cannot afford full-price travel to Beijing and said that conditions would be Spartan rather than luxury class.

An all-in ticket costs

### Jordan welcomes Kuwaiti stand

(Continued from page 1)

whose relations with Jordan were strained during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, was willing to study oil supplies to the Kingdom.

Sheikh Sabah, in comments carried by Reuter, indicated that senior U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau had raised the issue in talks with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on Monday.

"I do not exclude the subject (of oil)," Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad was quoted as saying.

"His highness the emir said the door is open and is not closed," the minister said, "Everyone's goal is

to tighten the isolation of the Iraqi regime for the benefit of the Iraqi people, for whom everyone cares."

Iraq has protested to the United Nations over alleged violations of its territorial waters by U.S. and British patrols, Baghdad's state-run newspapers reported.

The papers, carrying an Iraqi News Agency (INA) despatch from New York, said Iraq made the protest in a detailed letter submitted to the United Nations.

### U.S.: No sign of invasion plan

(Continued from page 1)

we are watching it very carefully. In the meantime, we're taking prudent actions."

Mr. Perry said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could not be trusted, despite his recent disclosures to United Nations arms inspectors about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. "He has deceived us many times in the

### Israel, PLO resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

Barum said.

At the bombing scene in the Ramat Eshkol neighbourhood in northern Jerusalem, grieving Israelis placed dozens of memorial candles on the sidewalk washed clean of blood and twisted metal.

Some cried, while others prayed silently, their heads bowed. Several handwritten notes containing the prayer "Hear, oh Israel [Shema, Israel]" were stuck into a nearby fence.

"I think they should continue the negotiations," said Eli, a Ramat Eshkol resident visiting the scene. "I don't see any reason to give a privilege to terrorists for the acts they do."

Monday's morning rush hour explosion tore through two crowded Jerusalem buses, killing five people, including an American teacher. Of the more than 100 injured, 28 remained hospitalised Tuesday, including six in serious condition.

Israel's newspapers carried large front-page pictures showing the twisted wreckage of the bus and head shots of the three victims identified so far.

"The saddest thing is that these attacks have become routine," the Maariv daily

wrote in an editorial Tuesday.

Israeli troops, meanwhile,

enforced the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed after the bombing. The travel ban, in effect until Wednesday morning, bars nearly 40,000 Palestinian workers from entering Israel and causes hardship in the Gaza Strip where unemployment is above 50 per cent.

The identity of the suicide bomber remained a mystery Tuesday.

Militants believed to be behind the blast remained unidentified Tuesday, and police said the condition of the woman's body suggested she might have been the one to plant the TNT bomb.

Family members said Alia Abu Ghalya, 20 a bedouin woman whose disappearance made her the focus of a police search, was located by relatives on Tuesday. Israeli intelligence agents searched the Abu Ghalya tent camped Monday night, relatives said.

On Monday Mr. Arafat denounced Iran for funding militants.

Women from groups as varied as "the association of wives of mediterranean fishermen" and one for rape victims will debate alongside passengers including artists, singers, human rights workers, part-time feminists, lawyers, teachers and a doctor.

## Tighter government supervision needed in financial deals — IMF

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing banking disasters in the United States and Singapore, a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urges tighter government controls over financial deals.

Problems with banks in Japan and France also warranted more government intervention, says the fund in its annual report on capital markets.

"It is essential that capital-impaired institutions not be allowed to operate without very close supervision, particularly if the government... insures deposits," said the report, which was distributed Monday.

The fund report sharply criticized what it called a policy of allowing lenders to "earn their way out of trouble." It said the United States did that at the start of problems with savings and loans institutions.

The IMF, which lends

money to governments in financial trouble and keeps watch on how they handle their finances, cited a problem with government forbearance in Japan, where banks in good shape often merge with ones in trouble.

"It is becoming more difficult to persuade the larger banks, which are beset with their own problem loans, to acquire insolvent banks," the report said.

It said depositors and investors in Japanese credit cooperatives were suffering because supervision came only from local authorities.

The report criticized the French government for not intervening sooner in the troubles of the state-owned Credit Lyonnais.

Failure to get out information was blamed as a leading element in the collapse earlier this year of Britain's 230-year-old Barings Bank. The bank suffered \$1.36 billion in

losses from high-risk trades by 28-year-old Singapore employee Nick Leeson, now fighting extradition to Singapore from a German jail.

One of the lessons of the Barings collapse is that had there been greater information sharing among regulatory authorities in Singapore and the United Kingdom, and between the futures exchanges in Singapore, Osaka and Tokyo, the problem experienced by Barings may have surfaced early enough to prevent the collapse, the report said.

Lack of information also played a part in the collapse of the Mexican peso, the report said.

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"Mexico had made available only limited economic data during 1994 and... (on the eve of the collapse) had difficulties preventing market participants from expecting the worst," the report said.

Residents of Mexico were the first to weaken the peso by switching their money into dollars and other stronger currencies because they had better information, it suggested.

"Domestic residents in developing country markets tend to be closer to sources of information about domestic economic events and prospects than foreign investors," it said.

## Latest data underline Japan's economic woes

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economy received another disappointing diagnosis Tuesday, with the country's key index of leading economic indicators dropping sharply in June.

The index, closely watched as a barometer of trends in economic activity for the subsequent six months, fell to 9.1 in June on a scale of 100, down from 16.7 in May.

It was the second month in a row that the index — which is compiled from a basket of economic indicators such as job figures and money supply — has been below the so-called "boom or bust mark" of 50. A figure below 50 is generally taken as suggesting the economy could contract in the coming months.

The data underlined government admissions that the economy had come to a standstill after struggling for some time to make a clear recovery from recession. But the government was quick to deny the figures showed the economy was actually worsening.

A senior official from the government's Economic Planning Agency, which released the data, rejected any notion that June's figures indicated that the economy was contracting.

"The June data do not warrant a change in the government's assessment that the nation's economy is stalling," the official told reporters. "It is too early to change the official economic view by just looking at the figures for the two months (of May and June)," he added.

A separate report from Japan's central bank, also issued Tuesday, echoed the government view that the economy was treading water.

The Bank of Japan's monthly report said the recovery remained at a standstill, although it noted some bright spots such as rising capital investment.

Japan's government first admitted in July that the nation's slow economic recovery had stalled. Until then, it had asserted that the economy was still recovering, albeit moderately, from the recession which followed the bursting of Japan's 1980s economic "bubble" of inflated land and stock prices.

Analysts, speaking to Reuters financial television, said the June figures fell due to poor industrial production, weak housing starts and the lingering negative psychological impact of the Tokyo nerve gas attacks in March.

They were, however, divided on whether Japan's recent poor economic performance was just a temporary deviation from a general economic recovery trend or not.

The deficit for the first 10 months of fiscal 1995 was \$137.25 billion, down from \$183.09 billion for the comparable 10-month period the prior year.

## U.S. '95 budget gap may be lowest in six years

WASHINGTON (R) — The federal government ran up a smaller-than-expected deficit of \$13.58 billion in July, the Treasury Department said Monday, putting the 1995 budget gap on track to be the lowest in six years.

July's red ink was about half that expected by analysts, who said the deficit was trimmed by more than \$7 billion due to the Federal Communication Commission's auction of space on the nation's airwaves.

Last month's deficit followed a revised surplus in June of \$12.81 billion that previously was reported as \$13.57 billion.

Analysts said the deficit is on track to match — or fall below — the Clinton administration's revised deficit forecast of \$160.0 billion for fiscal 1995, which ends Sept. 30.

"You can expect a budget deficit — barring any major surprises — of \$150 billion to \$155 billion for this year," said Kathleen Stephanian of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corp.

That would make the deficit the smallest since \$152.5 billion in fiscal 1989. Healthy economic growth has enabled the government to bring in more tax revenues, analysts said.

Proceeds from the FCC auction, which ended in March, were applied to the July deficit, analysts said. In that sale, the agency sold a valuable portion of the nation's airwaves for a new breed of wireless telephones, bringing in \$7.7 billion.

The deficit for the first 10 months of fiscal 1995 was \$137.25 billion, down from \$183.09 billion for the comparable 10-month period the prior year.

## Kuwait MPs pass budget, want more deficit cuts

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament Tuesday approved government budget plans aimed at cutting the deficit by 12 per cent in 1995/96 and called for more reductions in the shortfall in coming years.

"The government attaches substantial importance to this issue (the deficit)," he said.

MP Mishari Al Osaimi, who has criticised the government for presiding over several years of large deficits, echoed demands by many MPs for more deficit reductions, but said that in view of Sheikh Rodhan's statement he would now vote for the 1995/96 budget.

Seventeen MPs abstained in a vote on the bill Saturday in effect blocking its passage, to back demands that ministers submit a long-term plan to cut the deficit.

The deficit is directly related to national security because Kuwait would have to pay allies to come to its defense in any future emergency such as Iraq's 1990 invasion, diplomats say.

Officials say reducing the deficit will require politically sensitive cuts in a costly welfare state that provides lavish benefits and a tradition of state jobs for all Kuwaitis. Wages eat up more than half of the country's oil earnings.

Fund for Future Generations (RFFG), the other main reserve fund, which is meant to help fund the country when oil runs out several decades from now.

The so-called gross budget deficit, which accounts for this transfer, is projected at 1.611 billion dinars (\$5.37 billion) in 1994/95. The country's fiscal year runs from July 1.

Economists say the state's official reserves have been almost halved by a leap in deficits caused by 1991 Gulf war costs and expensive oil-field repairs.

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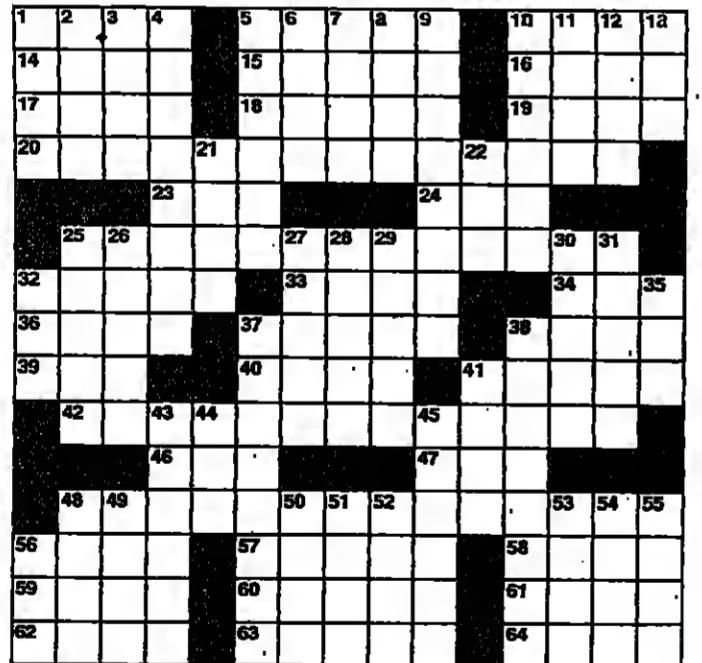
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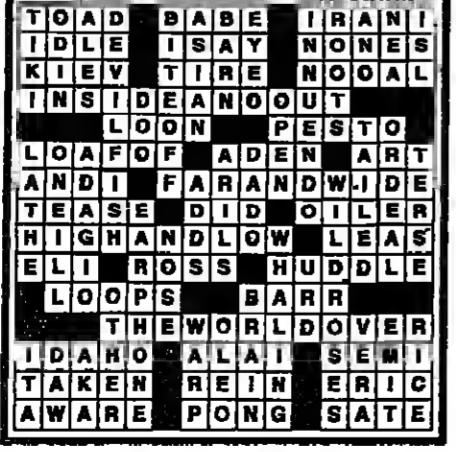
## THE Daily Crossword by Grace C. Pinkston

ACROSS

- 1 Distort
- 5 Gussy up
- 10 Go separate ways
- 14 Part of USA: abbr.
- 15 "— of the Jungle"
- 16 Theater award
- 17 Prank
- 18 City in Maine
- 19 Tribal group
- 20 Start of a Will Rogers quote
- 23 Alley
- 24 Employment ad abbr.
- 25 More of 20A
- 32 Images
- 33 Assist
- 34 Printer's measures
- 36 Twitches
- 37 Ripening factors
- 38 War god
- 39 Sign
- 40 Tibetan gazelles
- 41 Make amends
- 42 More of 20A



Yesterday's puzzle solved:



"I've never had an office romance, but I do have strong feelings for the coffee machine."



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOLEH

UNFAIR

BYNAD

UPLARB

SIDURA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: TRULY BRAVO SECOND ABUSED

Answer: **ROOT BEER**

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argerton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: TRULY BRAVO SECOND ABUSED

Answer: **ROOT BEER**

## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1995 9

budget, t cuts

for Future Generations (FFG), the other main investment fund, which is meant to fund the country's infrastructure over several decades.

The so-called gross budget, which accounts for a transfer, is projected at 11 billion dinars (\$5.376 million) in 1994/95. The one year's fiscal year runs from July 1.

Economists say the state

reserves have been halved by a deficit caused by 1991's

costs and expensive

repairs.

The deficit is directly related to national security and Kuwait would have to allies to come to a

any future emergency such as Iraq's 1990 invasion.

diplomats say.

Official say reducing deficit will require political

cuts in a costly

seat that provides benefits and a

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ages eat up more than

the country's oil earnings.

buses

K System

um corporate tax rates

from 48 per cent.

He said the government

intend to revamp the

s highly complex

aeratic tax structure

ich increased tax rates

ad to lower tax revenue

"Of the four million or

nes registered, 80,000

pay any tax," he

doso said.

HOROSCOPE

RECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1995

IES: (March 21 to April 19) Find the mechanism that will make you more functional and easier to please. Think of some investments you want to make.

URUS: (April 20 to May 18) You can be very changeable today and tonight. Handle business well, attend new social plans and include loved ones and friends.

EMINIS: (May 19 to June 16) Be with the one you love. Get into activities that please you to be a better person. Think of some plans for the future. Have an enjoyable weekend.

BRA: (June 17 to July 14) Do something which allows outside contacts to value the relationship well for your success.

IRGO: (July 15 to August 22) Get in touch with out-of-towners and do business for them. Plan a social trip so you have an enjoyable weekend.

BRA: (August 23 to September 20) Do something especially nice for your wife. Bring mutual happiness. Try to have money for later pleasure activities.

CORPIO: (October 21 to November 18) If you are more thoughtful with your associates, you will change the atmosphere around you. Be happy with your family life.

AGITARIUS: (November 19 to December 16) If it is more thoughtful with your associates, you will change the atmosphere around you. Be happy with your family life.

APRICORN: (December 17 to January 24) Think about amusements you can take in with whom you are more affectionate. Make it look more attractive and inviting.

QUARIES: (January 25 to February 22) State your ideas for a more prosperous future. You dress nicely so you make a good impression.

**business**  
**Daily Beat**  
A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Local drugs under study for price increases

**ACCORDING TO** Abdul Rahim Isa, the head of the Association of Pharmacists, the prices of some locally-manufactured medicines could be raised by 10 to 15 per cent. The price rise has been sanctioned by the Council of Ministers, Mr. Isa said. Noting that the Kingdom's annual consumption of medicines amounts to \$50 million he pointed out that the price increase would affect the locally-manufactured drugs, registered 10 years ago and accounting for 40 per cent of the country's total consumption. Mr. Isa said the association was in favour of increasing prices of some local medicines as prices for basic ingredients of raw material had risen in the countries of origin. However, he attributed the increase in the prices of foreign medicines to foreign exchange differentials and not to higher export prices.

Asked about the unrestricted policy for licensing pharmacies, Mr. Isa said that without putting controls, there will be catastrophe in the pharmacy business and a huge capital loss. Noting that the international level was a rate of one pharmacy to every 5,500 persons, he pointed out that there are about 1,120 pharmacies in a country of four million, notwithstanding the fact that 70 per cent of the population is covered by medical insurance from the Ministry of Health or the Royal Medical Services. He said the controls should be, for example, not to award a pharmacy licence to any pharmacist before he/she acquires three years of experience after graduation and to ensure that the applicant will directly run his/her own pharmacy for another three years. Referring to business hours, the pharmacists' chief stressed that pharmacies should abide by the required opening and closing time. He said 75 pharmacists, mostly in Amman and Irbid, have been referred to the association's disciplinary council (Al Ra'i).

**ON CHILDREN:** (the 1st to July 21) This is a good year for repaying any debts. Be happy with your friends. Friendships make life richer and more worthwhile.

**SO: (July 22 to August 18)** Something which allows outside contacts to value the relationship well for your success.

**IRGO:** (August 19 to September 26) Get in touch with out-of-towners and do business for them. Plan a social trip so you have an enjoyable weekend.

**BRA:** (September 27 to October 24) Do something especially nice for your wife. Bring mutual happiness. Try to have money for later pleasure activities.

**CORPIO:** (October 25 to November 22) If you are more thoughtful with your associates, you will change the atmosphere around you. Be happy with your family life.

**APRICORN:** (November 23 to December 20) Think about amusements you can take in with whom you are more affectionate. Make it look more attractive and inviting.

**QUARIES:** (January 21 to February 18) State your ideas for a more prosperous future. You dress nicely so you make a good impression.

**NEW YORK (R)** — Two of the world's biggest cigarette makers said Monday they settled multibillion-dollar libel suits against ABC-TV for a 1994 broadcast alleging the companies manipulated the amount of nicotine in cigarettes to keep smokers addicted.

The suits, filed by Philip Morris Cos. and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., alleged that ABC's newsmagazine show "Day One" falsely reported that the companies "spike" cigarettes with higher levels of nicotine.

A statement apologising for an error in the report was read by journalist Diane Sawyer on ABC's "World News Tonight." ABC also agreed to pay attorney fees and other expenses related to the suits, but the amount was not made public.

"It is the policy of ABC news to make corrections where they are warranted," ABC said in a statement that

was released by all three companies. "We now agree that we (ABC) should not have reported Philip Morris and Reynolds add significant amounts of nicotine from outside sources. That was a mistake that was not deliberate on the part of ABC but for which we accept responsibility and which requires correction."

"We apologise to our audience," Philip Morris and Reynolds said.

In its suit filed in state court in Richmond, Virginia, in March 1994, Philip Morris sought \$10 billion in damages. R.J. Reynolds filed its suit, which sought unspecified damages, in state court in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, last Friday.

R.J. Reynolds' cigarette brands include Camel and Winston, while Philip Morris makes Marlboro and Virginia Slims.

The statement also said

ABC and the tobacco companies continued to disagree over the main focus of the "Day One" reports, which aired Feb. 28 and March 7, 1994. But it added that the companies have agreed to end the libel actions.

The settlement comes just two weeks after President Bill Clinton and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took on the tobacco companies, proposing nicotine be regulated as a drug.

The federal agency said that three decades of research shows that tobacco companies themselves have long believed cigarettes are addictive and have strong appeal to minors.

The president instructed the FDA to propose rules to curtail the sale, distribution and advertising of cigarettes to minors. The regulations would ban vending machine sales and prohibit distribution of free samples.

The tobacco industry has

agreed to accept the apology," Mr. Bixby said.

A hearing scheduled in the suits was cancelled Friday as negotiations continued and sources said both sides were still hammering out terms late Monday afternoon.

Although sources said they expected the television network would settle the suits, ABC had been fighting the case as late as last month when it moved to have it dismissed.

Since the suits were filed, Walt Disney Co. has agreed to buy Capital Cities/ABC Inc. in a \$19 billion deal.

The case centred on the cigarette-making process. Most cigarettes are made with some reconstituted

tobacco, a filler that includes stems and crushed leaves. In making the filler, companies take out the nicotine and then later add it back.

The issue is whether the companies simply recombine the ingredients or whether they "spike" cigarettes as suggested in the "Day One" report. The companies maintain they do not add extra nicotine to cigarettes to add smokers.

ABC maintained that the main point of the broadcast was whether the companies used the cigarette manufac-

turing process to control levels of nicotine to keep people smoking.

"There was a mistake we corrected it. The principal thrust of the report, however, was not about (nicotine from) outside sources," said Capital Cities/ABC spokeswoman Patricia Matson. "We continue to believe the broadcast speaks for itself."

One 18-minute segment of the report has become famous for the silhouette "deep cough," a former R.J. Reynolds official who said manufacturers can control

the amount of nicotine put in cigarettes. In one sound bite, he said the companies "put nicotine in the form of tobacco extract into a product to keep the consumer happy."

After the segments were aired, the FDA raised the prospect of regulation for the first time.

There also was a burst of litigation against the tobacco industry including a massive class action suit filed in New Orleans federal court and suits filed by four states seeking to recoup the health care costs of smokers.

## ABC-TV settles libel suits with cigarette makers

**Judge approves U.S. Microsoft settlement**

**WASHINGTON (R)** — A federal judge Monday approved the government's year-old antitrust settlement with Microsoft Corp., silencing objections that the deal was too lenient on the software giant.

The action by U.S. District Judge Thomas Jackson clears away a major hurdle for Microsoft, which has been embroiled in the antitrust controversy for five years.

It doesn't entirely end scrutiny of the company, since the government is still investigating Microsoft's online network that is due to be

launched this week.

"I would suspect that because they're so high profile in the software arena now, that the Justice Department will always keep one eye on them to try to ensure a competitive industry environment," said Steve McClellan of Merrill Lynch.

Microsoft has long been the target of criticism because of its dominance.

Rivals charged the Redmond, Washington-based company acted in ways that stifled competition, but Microsoft always said that it got to be No. 1 by competing

aggressively and lawfully.

The previous judge in the case, U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin, in an unusual decision, had thrown out the accord in February because he said it did not go far enough to address Microsoft's "monopolistic practices."

But an appeals court panel found in June that Judge Sporkin had overstepped his authority and Judge Jackson was then appointed to consider the settlement.

The approval comes just days before Microsoft was due to unveil its biggest product in years, Windows 95, which is an upgrade to its basic operating system that is nearly 80 per cent of all computers.

Microsoft also makes the MS-DOS operating system used in personal computers — the forerunner of Windows.

As part of the settlement, Microsoft agreed to change a number of business practices.

PC makers will no longer pay Microsoft a fee for every machine they ship, regardless of whether or not it contained Microsoft's operating software. Rivals charged this practice had shut them out of the market.

It also agreed to end its practice of multi-year licensing agreements, which effectively kept PC-makers tied to its software for lengthy

periods.

Microsoft also agreed to reform its non-disclosure policies, giving software developers more latitude in using test versions of its products.

Although the settlement ends one longstanding antitrust probe against the company, the Justice Department is still investigating its online service, the Microsoft network, which is being sold with Windows 95.

Competitors have charged that by offering the network as part of Windows 95, Microsoft is getting an unfair advantage in luring customers to its system.

An official said in court that the probe of the online service was continuing.

"We are still actively in the process of gathering all the relevant facts," said Donald Russell, chief of the Telecommunications Task Force in the department's antitrust division. "We are not seeking any action at this time."

As for the current settlement, Microsoft agreed to change a number of business practices.

PC makers will no longer pay Microsoft a fee for every machine they ship, regardless of whether or not it contained Microsoft's operating software. Rivals charged this practice had shut them out of the market.

Microsoft, however, had wanted the 6½ year decree entered retroactively to Dec. 15, 1994, so that it would expire sooner, but Judge Jackson denied the request.

It also agreed to end its practice of multi-year licensing agreements, which effectively kept PC-makers tied to its software for lengthy

periods.

As for the current settlement, the Justice Department had been seeking approval since it reached the deal with Microsoft in July 1994. With Judge Jackson's ruling, the accord took effect.

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wanted the 6½ year decree entered retroactively to Dec. 15, 1994, so that it would expire sooner, but Judge Jackson denied the request.

# Yeboah on target again as Leeds beat Liverpool

LEEDS (AFP) — An astonishing volley by Tony Yeboah sent Leeds to the top of the embryonic English Premiership table as Liverpool were left crying foul over a penalty that was not given here at Elland Road on Monday.

The £3.4 million (\$5.5 million) Ghanaian capture from Eintracht Frankfurt struck a ferocious shot from 25 yards to make it three in two games and maintain Leeds' 100 per cent start.

But Liverpool were left fuming about the tackle by John Pemberton on Stan Collymore that forced the British record signing to limp off with a damaged ankle.

Pemberton clattered into the £8.5 million striker as he advanced deep into the box in only the sixth minute, bringing him down with the ball out of the frame.

Insult was added to injury when Collymore, who had opened his Liverpool career with a stunning goal against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday, had to make way for substitute Robbie Fowler.

Yeboah had begun the hugely-anticipated proceedings with a rising drive from

25 yards that did not trouble David James shortly before the Collymore incident.

Collymore drifted deep to take possession, instantly laid off to Ian Rush and sprinted for the return, taking the ball into the box.

Yeboah's moment of magic lifted the whole tempo of the match as Liverpool responded by picking up their game.

Midway through the half, Mark Wright nodded forward and Rush stretched out a foot to send the ball trickling inches outside the goal, although good work by Wallace then provided an opening for McAllister, the precision of whose side footer was matched by the athleticism of James.

In the 72nd minute, England full-back Rob Jones, still awaiting his first Liverpool goal, took a McManaman pass to let fly from distance, his shot deflecting off John Barnes and crashing against the upright with Lukic a spectator.

James then kept his side in the contest when he somehow parried a point-blank header from Brian Deane but there was to be no rescue act for the Reds.

## McEnroe: Only Sampras can beat Agassi

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — Andre Agassi isn't the only one confident about his chances of repeating in the upcoming U.S. Open.

As far as John McEnroe is concerned, there's only one player in the field of 128 who has a chance to beat Agassi in the Open — three-time defending Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras.

"Andre obviously has roared back since Wimbledon," McEnroe said Monday night during a press conference before playing in a charity event with Agassi, Brad Gilbert and Sergi Bruguera at the Pathmark Tennis Classic. "He took a negative and turned it into a positive after losing a match he should have won," McEnroe said, referring to Agassi's semifinal loss to Boris Becker at Wimbledon. "He's roared back and won four straight tournaments. Pete is struggling, but you have to put those two far and away (above the rest). After that, it's a crapshoot."

When pressed, McEnroe said he would be surprised if anyone other than Agassi or Sampras won.

That's really not a bold statement. Agassi has posted a 46-2 record on hardcourt this year and he has not lost on the surface this summer. The world's top-ranked player fought off two second-set, match points to beat Richard Krajicek 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, on Sunday to win the Volvo International.

"I'm going into the U.S. Open believing I can win it and not anything else," Agassi said. "I'm going there to win whether I'm seeded No. 1 or not seeded at all. The importance hasn't changed."

Agassi downplayed his struggle on Sunday, saying he won despite not playing his best tennis the final two rounds. "If it hadn't gone my way, nothing would have changed other than I would have lost one this summer," the 25-year-old Agassi said. "Quite honestly, my confidence is at a high. Not really because I got through that match, it's just a reflection of where my confidence level is."

Brad Gilbert, Agassi's coach, brushed off McEnroe's prediction made before a sold-out benefit for the Newark-based safe passage foundation started by the late Arthur Ashe.

"There are 126 other guys there so I disagree," Gilbert said. "There are two guys who have obviously stepped forward but that doesn't mean they are going to win. As soon as you start thinking no one else can beat you, that's the quickest way to get out of an event."

Gilbert also said the times changed since McEnroe was No. 1.

"Now there's more chance of guys having a tough time the first week," Gilbert said. "There's more depth in the game now than there ever has been, and upsets are very possible."

## Kodak host their 1995 mid-year performance review

August 1995 — Kodak (Near East) Inc. recently held their annual Mid-Year Performance Review at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dubai. This year's event was attended by over 40 representatives from Kodak's Middle East Distributor organisations, including their local distributor in Jordan, Allied Trade and Supplies Company.

"Aimed at providing a forum at which both Kodak and its distributors can re-align and re-consolidate their goals and strategies for the remainder of the business year, our mid-year conference has proven invaluable in ensuring the success of our business in the region. It is an especially important event when one considers the changeability of markets in the Middle East," noted Mr Andre Nahas, General Manager, Kodak (Near East) Inc. "We have always promoted a close working relationship with our distributors" continued Mr Heinz Eichmann, assistant general manager. "We are fortunate that our distributors are similarly committed to ensuring the continuity of these conferences through their regular participation."

Kodak's next major distributor conference will be held in January 1996.

## Brazil maintain lead in FIFA rankings

ZURICH (R) — World champions Brazil maintained their lead at the top of the latest world rankings issued by FIFA on Tuesday.

Leading rankings (1994

rankings in brackets):

1. Brazil (1)	68.42 pts
2. Norway (8)	59.40
3. Spain (2)	58.36
4. Germany (5)	58.31
5. Argentina (10)	57.86
6. Italy (4)	56.60
7. Denmark (14)	56.35
8. Russia (13)	55.45
9. Portugal (20)	55.30
10. Mexico (15)	54.99
11. Switzerland (7)	54.47
12. Bulgaria (16)	53.83
13. Colombia (17)	53.59
14. Romania (11)	53.33
15. Sweden (3)	52.88
16. Ireland (9)	51.58
17. Netherlands (6)	51.18
18. France (19)	51.16
19. U.S. (23)	49.83
20. Uruguay (37)	49.46
21. Egypt (22)	49.41
22. England (18)	48.63
23. Scotland (32)	48.09
24. Ghana (26)	47.98
25. Tunisia (30)	47.68
26. Zambia (21)	47.61
27. Czech Republic (34) 47.01	
28. Poland (29)	46.98
29. Belgium (24)	45.76
30. Greece (28)	45.67

## Bollettieri will not coach Becker any more

BRADENTON, Florida (AP) — Boris Becker's coach for the past two years, Nick Bollettieri, has decided to give up the job so he can concentrate on his tennis academy, a spokeswoman said Monday. Bollettieri will remain Becker's tennis advisor, but can no longer commit to the time and travel that coaching the German star demands, spokeswoman Linda Dozoretz said.

Mike Delaplane Jr., who has assisted Bollettieri and worked with Becker in the past year, will continue to help coach Becker.

Becker's Manager, Axel Meyer-Wolden, didn't return a call seeking comment.



Giant catcher Jeff Reed waits for the ball while Greg Maddux of the Braves' slides safely home as he scores when Giants left fielder Barry Bonds dropped a fly-ball by Braves Jose Oliva

## Doping expert Donike dies at 61

BONN (R) — Manfred Donike, the internationally renowned doping expert whose evidence led to the banning of world sprint champions Katrin Krabbe and Ben Johnson, died on Monday two days before his 62nd birthday.

A spokeswoman for the IOC-approved German sports high school laboratory in Cologne which Donike ran said he suffered a heart attack during a flight to Johannesburg.

Donike, a former professional cyclist, was a member of the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission and was to receive the Olympic Order for his work in the fight against drug abuse in sport.

He was best known for the 1991 analysis which established that urine samples submitted by world 100 and 200 metres champion Krabbe and former East German team mates Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller all stemmed from the same person.

The athletes were banned for four years but then acquitted on a technicality.

But in 1992 Krabbe, Breuer and team mate Manuela Derr were found after analysis at Donike's laboratory to have taken the steroid clenbuterol and banned again.

Krabbe is suing for compensation over the ban but recently had a baby and does not plan to return to the track.

But former world 400 metres medallist Breuer and fellow 400 metres runner Derr have dropped their court action and plan to return to competition this season to prepare for

the 1996 Olympics. Donike carried out the drugs test at the 1988 Seoul Olympics which led to the sensational disqualification and banning of Canada's 100 metres winner Ben Johnson for taking steroids.

His first coup in the fight against drugs abuse came at the 1983 Pan-American Games where he uncovered 19 doping cases.

Donike was instrumental in pushing through more rigorous testing programmes, especially in Germany, and in arguing for spot testing to prevent athletes concealing their drug-taking.

Last year Donike had no qualms about accusing China's swimmers of systematic doping after their team enjoyed a meteoric rise to the sporting heights.

Donike's crusading work also played a part in the introduction of out-of-competition testing for swimmers in China, as well as the United States and Russia.

Even weight-lifting, one of the sports most susceptible to and plagued by performance-enhancing drugs, changed its rules following pressure from Donike.

"Manfred Donike sacrificed himself to clean sport," German Sports Federation (DSB) president Manfred Von Richthofen said.

"It is difficult times and in the face of critics of doping testing he never swerved from his line and not least for that reason earned German sport international respect."

## Edwards heads anti-climax

GATESHEAD, England (AP) — He warned his home town supporters not to expect anything too exciting, and world triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards could well have been talking about Monday's entire Great Britain versus United States athletics challenge, not just his performance.

Edwards only managed one successful jump of 17.49 metres as the British men beat the U.S. 203 points to 182, while the American women evened the annual meeting, winning 210.5 to 156.5.

After the world championships in Gothenburg less than two weeks ago and last Wednesday's stellar evening of athletics at the Weltklasse meet in Zurich, Monday's competition between a second-string U.S. team and Britain deprived of at least two of its biggest attractions, was anti-climatic.

Without Olympic and former world 100-metre champion Linford Christie and world 1500 silver and 800 bronze medallist Kelly Holmes, it was up to Edwards to carry the meet in his first appearance at home since his 18.29 standard setting leap in Sweden.

With three fouls and two passes from six jumps, Edwards' supporters at his home

track, where he leapt a wind assisted 18.03 last month, only saw him complete one jump.

"It wasn't about winning or even jumping a long way — it was about saying thank you to the people of the northeast for supporting me and celebrating my record," said Edwards, the only world champion at the meeting.

"It was the first time I've been able to relax for a while, and I really enjoyed it. I'm feeling very tired and it was a great response from the crowd."

The quality event of the evening was the men's 110 hurdles featuring world record holder and former world

champion Colin Jackson who won convincingly in a quick 13.18, from his teammate and world silver medalist Tony Jarrett.

American Tony Dees, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, fell at the second hurdle. Jackson missed the World Championships through injury, and was happy with his time Monday. He is having an operation to trim his right knee cartilage at the end of the season.

— Britain's Javelin silver medalist in Gothenburg, Steve Backley, won the event with a throw of 83.00. 1.48 clear of second placed Tom Putsky of the U.S.

Californian Danny Harris,

the 1984 Olympic and 1987 world silver medallist, started home by 10 yards in the 400 hurdles in 48.70.

It took until the last leg of the evening's penultimate event for the Americans to unveil their only individual medal winner from Gothenburg.

Jearl Miles, who won the 400m bronze in Sweden only ran in the 4x400 relay in which she made up 30 yards in the last leg to win the event for the U.S. by 10 yards.

The U.S. had six relay medallists competing, two of whom, Christy Gaines and Celena Monde-Miller, repeated their win in the 4x100 relay.

## Durie fights pain barrier for Rangers

LARNACA (AFP) — Gordon Durie is ready to play through the pain barrier to help Rangers clinch a precious place in the European Champions League here on Wednesday.

The Scottish Champions take a 1-0 lead into Wednesday's European Cup preliminary round, second-leg against Anorthosis Famagusta in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Super sub Durie supplied them with that vital advantage in Glasgow but also collected a foot injury, which has made him doubtful for the return match.

"I haven't been able to kick the ball because of the bruising but I've been in the gym working on my fitness," said Durie.

"It's possible I may have to have an injection to play if the manager needs me and I'd be prepared to do that."

"It is such a big game for everyone at Rangers that you desperately want to be involved."

The 29-year-old striker says his side are fully aware that their big club status is on the line once again tomorrow after twice failing to reach the Champions League.

"If we don't make it then we will have only ourselves to blame I suppose," said the former Tottenham and Chelsea star.

"On paper everyone really expects us to beat them over two games so we must do that on the pitch."

"We all want that place amongst Europe's elite, which would mean so much to us as players and the club as well."

"The preliminary round games had become very tight and, in many ways, you feel that if you get through the pressure would be off slightly."

Durie, whose chances of playing on Wednesday rose with the absence of Danish international and Scottish player of the year Brian Laudrup, is unconcerned about reports that the atmosphere in Larnaca will be extremely hostile for the visitors.

"We experienced that in Athens last year at this stage and we have a number of international players who have been all over the world and are used to that kind of thing," said Durie.

CINEMA TEL:634144

**PHILADELPHIA**

JIM CARREY AMY YAZBK

**THE MASK**

Shows: 1230, 330, 615, 830, 1030

CINEMA TEL:699238

**PLAZA**

Nabil Obeid & Yousef Sha'aban... in

**Huda and H.E. the Minister**

(Arabic)

Shows: 1230, 315, 5, 645, 830, 1030

CINEMA TEL:677420

**CONCORD**

CONCORD "1" Ninja Turtles 3 Shows: 1230, 330 Adel Imam in

Bakhit and Adileh Shows: a, a:15, 10:45

**CONCORD "2" SPECIALIST**

Shows: 3:30, 5:30, 11

**AMMAN THEATRE** TEL:618274 - 6182





**BLACK SHARK:** Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev (right) inspects the battle helicopter "Black Shark" during the opening of the Air Fair International Aerocosmic Salon in Zhukovsky, 40 kilometres from Moscow, on Tuesday. A total of 145 aircraft and helicopters from 23 countries are on show at the exhibition (AFP photo)

## France tightens security after blast suspect nabbed

PARIS (Agencies) — France tightened security on Tuesday after suspected Algerian Muslim militant was detained in Stockholm in connection with bloody bomb attacks in Paris.

Customs officers joined police in carrying out spot checks on travellers and luggage in the country's main railway stations. The railway company SNCF banned non-passengers from platforms.

Witnesses said high-speed TGV trains were the most carefully checked. France had already imposed draconian security after two guerrilla bombings in the past month killed seven people and wounded more than 100 in the heart of Paris.

The extra security came after French officials said Swedish police detained Abdul Karim Deneche on Monday at the request of visiting French anti-terrorist Magistrate Jean-Francois Ricard for questioning over the bombs.

French police believe Deneche is a leading member of Algeria's violent rebel Armed Islamic Group (GIA). Both bomb attacks, in which similar devices were used, were claimed by a telephone caller claiming to speak for the GIA.

Investigators believe that Algerian extremists were behind the two bombings and last month's killing in a Paris mosque of Algerian Muslim cleric Abdul Baki Sahaoui who had been threatened by the GIA.

The French daily *Le Monde* said French investiga-

tors had identified Deneche as Abdul Sabour, a man the well-informed Algerian daily *La Tribune* had accused of being responsible for Sahraoui's killing and planning attacks in France.

It said Deneche's name was on the Stockholm letterbox of Al Ansar, an Islamic newsletter which said last month that Algerian Muslim militants were behind the bombing of an underground commuter train in central Paris last July 25.

Press reports said a gendarme recognised Deneche from a photograph as a man he saw agitatedly getting off the train seconds before the bomb exploded on board, killing seven and wounding 36.

A second bomb wounded 17 people near the Arc de Triomphe last week.

*Le Monde* said Judge Ricard may issue an international arrest warrant against Deneche after studying the reports of his questioning by Swedish police. It said Deneche's wife was also detained.

Swedish and French officials maintained a news blackout on Deneche. French Justice Minister Jacques Toubon said early disclosure of his arrest may have hampered investigations.

Swedish television, however, reported that Deneche claimed he does not belong to the GIA. Footage from an interview in December, rebroadcast Monday, shows a man, his face shaded out, saying: "I don't have any links with the GIA, I am not a member of the GIA."

Deneche denied belonging

## Nzo: No nuclear secrets to Iran

PRETORIA (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo on Monday denied South Africa was passing on nuclear secrets to Iran, saying dealings between the two countries fell within the scope of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

At a media briefing here, Mr. Nzo said South Africa, as a signatory to the treaty, "would never at any stage be involved in any activity with any country that is likely to produce a result in which that country produces nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction."

Foreign Affairs Director General Rusty Evans said at the weekend that a visit to Iran by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha in March, during which he held a series of meetings on nuclear cooperation, had sent "alarm bells ringing with the Americans."

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said U.S. fears that South Africa could be passing on nuclear secrets to Iran were behind strenuous efforts in recent weeks by the Americans to persuade South Africa not to develop close ties with the Islamic republic.

South Africa is busy concluding a deal under which some 15 million barrels of crude oil will be stored at Saldanha, on South Africa's west coast.

The trial had taken political dimensions because one of the defendants, Mortaza Rafiqdoust, is the brother of a senior Iranian official who is related by marriage to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. He was one of the two sentenced to life in jail.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust, the convict's brother and brother-in-law of the Iranian president, former Revolutionary Guards Corps minister. He now heads the multibillion-dollar Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled, one of several "bonyads," or state con-

## Peace with Israel is far away — Sharraa

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Peace between Israel and Syria is distant, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharraa said Tuesday during a visit to Stockholm.

"As long as there are settlements on the occupied territories, as long as the Israelis have not thought thoroughly of withdrawal one should expect that tension will remain," Mr. Sharraa said at a news conference.

He would not condemn Monday's bomb attack on a Jerusalem bus that killed five people.

"We condemn first of all armed settlers that occupy others' land," he said. He added he had heard the suicide bomber was a woman and offered understanding for her.

"Perhaps she had lost a few sons or brothers."

At the moment there are no formal talks known between the two countries. Previously both sides held an inconclusive dialogue on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Sharraa said next year's elections in Israel and the United States could speed up the peace process if the candidates make peace an issue.

"If the Israelis and the Americans are serious about peace then this should help rather than undermine" the peace process, he said.

Mr. Sharraa repeated Syria's rejection of the key Israeli demand for each country to set up electronic monitoring posts — so-called

ground-based early warning stations — on the other's side of the border at the Golan Heights.

"They want to use the ground stations to spy rather than to stop the war," Mr. Sharraa said.

The early warning system and demilitarised zones on both sides of the border would be set up after an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Syria would prefer satellite and air reconnaissance, Mr. Sharraa said. Israel has rejected that.

Mr. Sharraa arrived in Sweden Tuesday for talks on bilateral issues and the Middle East. On Wednesday he will continue to Denmark and Norway.

Syria and Iran, both branded sponsors of "terrorism" by the United States, meanwhile sought to explain the causes for Monday's deadly bus bombing in Jerusalem.

The Syrian government said the explosion was an inevitable consequence of flaws in Israel's peace accords with Jordan and the Palestinians.

A state-run newspaper said the apparent suicide attack proves Israel cannot expect full security from "partial deals."

"The explosion has drawn a very clear picture about the negative and destructive repercussions of the partial deals, the promoters of which have tried to impose with all means of power, pressure and blackmail," said Al

Thawra, a government mouthpiece.

Iran's state-controlled radio criticised the tactic used in the bombing, but claimed Palestinians had no choice but to resort to such methods.

"There is no doubt the planting of bombs is unprincipled and abhorrent," the radio said in a commentary.

"But," it added, "this is the course the Palestinians have apparently been forced to choose in light of the daily mounting violence and suppression in occupied Jeru-

alem."

It quoted "informed political observers... not ruling out the probability of involvement of rival and extremist Zionist groups in such explosions."

"The blast demonstrates that such partial agreements should still be rejected and are unacceptable because they are prejudicial to the Palestinian people's rights and aspirations," it added.

"Did these partial agreements guarantee Israel's security?" the paper asked. "Did they set the Israelis at ease and make them practice their daily life away from the feelings of fear and worry?"

Al Thawra said only a "just and comprehensive" peace would "eradicate all elements of tension and explosion and could end all kinds of injustice, occupation and hegemony."

## Iran bank official sentenced to death for multi-million fraud

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A senior Iranian banker was condemned to death Tuesday and two accomplices were handed down life sentences in the biggest embezzlement scandal to go to trial in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the trio were among five defendants convicted of misappropriation up to \$255 million from the state-run Bank Saderat, a case that had spotlighted rampant official corruption slowing down government efforts to resuscitate the economy.

In addition to the five, two men were ordered to pay fines for minor involvement in the case and a third defendant was acquitted of all charges, said IRNA, monitored in Cyprus.

The trial had taken political dimensions because one of the defendants, Mortaza Rafiqdoust, is the brother of a senior Iranian official who is related by marriage to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. He was one of the two sentenced to life in jail.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust, the convict's brother and brother-in-law of the Iranian president, former Revolutionary Guards Corps minister. He now heads the multibillion-dollar Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled, one of several "bonyads," or state con-

glomerates, which are supposed to help Iran's poor, who make up most of the country's 60 million population.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust was dismissed from the cabinet following a no-confidence vote by parliament in 1988 after he was linked to major corruption scandals.

In addition to the embezzlement charge, Fazel Khozadad, the key defendant in the Bank Saderat scandal, was convicted of "sabotaging the country's economic system" for which he was condemned to death.

Mr. Meshkini heads the 83-member Assembly of Experts, which chooses Iran's supreme leader.

After five years in power, Mr. Rafsanjani remains on able to steer the economy out of the doldrums.

More than half of Iran's population is below 16 years of age, which makes the task of expanding the economy and creating new jobs even more urgent.

Oil revenues, Iran's economic lifeline, have plummeted following a price slump on the international market. The government is desperately trying to boost non-oil exports, which traditionally have been limited to carpets, caviar, dried fruits and handicrafts.

It was not immediately known whether the convicts have the right to appeal to a higher court.

The Bank Saderat case had increased public pressure on the government to take action to stamp out official graft at a time when the economy is deteriorating.

A senior Iranian cleric last

month criticised the judicial system for dealing harshly with ordinary citizens while allowing "big shots" to go unpunished.

In referring to the embezzlement case, Ayatollah Ali Akbar Meshkini had said that if the defendants were found guilty, the authorities should "sack out the money from their filthy gins, firmly and decisively and give them what they deserve."

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One defendant, Khosrow

Vaseghi, was acquitted, said IRNA. Two others, Ebrahim Agha and Jamsheed Arqand, were sentenced to 15 years in prison each and ordered to pay fines.

The verdicts and sentences

were handed down by the

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public court, which rules by

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